Parable of the Soils

THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS. Mark 4:1-20

Read the three versions.

Why this had better be called The Parable of the Soils.
Jesus lays emphasis upon the different classes of hearers.
The same sower, the same seed, the same growing conditions, but the diffeeence in soils explains the difference in harvests.

I. The Four Types of Hearers.

1. The Wayside Mind. The Jews - their malice, blind prejudice & [illegible]
   What hardens us so that we do not respond to truth?
   How can we keep ourselves receptive to all good influences?

2. The Shallow Mind.
   The impulsive character of ready action.
   How can we deepen our appreciations and intentions?

3. The Preoccupied Mind.
   The supreme interest choked by many other interests.
   Too many irons in the fire.

4. The Responsive Mind.
   Mind and heart open to the truth.
   It recognizes it, receives it and acts upon it.
   Fruitage is the final test of seed and soil.
   "By their fruits ye shall know them"

II. What consideration of this parable will help us in our Christian Endeavor living? ~~Will make us tmuer friends of Christ, stronger friends for Christ and more intimat friends with Christ?~~

1. Some Xns have more power than others. They seem to possess a greater measure of the Spirit of X.
   Why is this when God offers His truth and power to all alike? Did not Jesus die for all and are not all Xns saved? Then why have they not all th same power and influence?

2. It cannot be that we do not believe right.
   Some fundamentalists without power and some liberals with power. And some liberals without power and some fundamentalists with power.

3. The receiving of power from on high does not depend altogether upon our belief in God. Something more is required.

That something is God's belief in us.

Thru faith we trust in God. But evidently our trust in God is not sufficient guarantee to enable God to put His trust in us.

The parable teaches us that the fruitage depends upon the character of the soil.

Likewise the fruitage of belief in God thruJesus Christ depends upon the character of the believer.

4. The four types of soil stand for the different types of character.

a. Character a matter of habits and attitudes.

The set mind cannot receive further truth -

The shallow mind cannot grasp the significance of the truth.

Fickleness — Story of "Brook Moon" in old Atlantic Monthly
"In less than a minute from mid summer to mid-winter".

The ~~[illegible]~~ mind taken up with worldly affains cannot give proper consideration to the things of God.

the tare or darnel very similar to the wheat.
the gospel itself becomes tare to many who receive it & apply it selfishly.

The receptive mind which understands the truth, accepts it and acts and lives accordingly, isthe fruitful mind to which God can trust His truth.

"Fruit to Perfection"!

the thrashing machine contains fine wire sieves
all wheat not going thru makes good flour.
Some wheat going thru much like the larger grains but makes mostly bran & very little flour

b. Jn. 15:10 If ye keep my commandments ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.

Jn. 15: 14. Ye are my friends if ye do the things which I command you.

Love thy neighbor as thyself
the golden Rule

Love and Obedience make us trustworfhy to receive from God His power and Spirit.

Obedience the test of love { the soldier
the friend
husband & wife
Xns

Victrola, Radio and Baby at the piano.

Victrola- The Bible

Radio The Word of God in the lives of His living children

Baby- The Word of God in you and in me.